



Make all you can,  
Save all you can;  
Give all you can.

---John Wesley.

**THE BANK OF LAURENS**  
LAURENS, S. C.

## PRIMARY QUESTION IS CONSIDERED BY HOUSE

Four Bills Now on Calendar, Members Give Views For and Against Reform.

Columbia, Feb. 5.—Primary reform and the best means to secure it occupied the attention of the House this morning for most of the session, and were discussed again tonight. Four bills having this general purpose are on the Calendar, and amendments introduced today will have the effect practically of bringing new measures before the consideration of the body, as they are of so sweeping a nature as hardly to be considered as amendments, but as bills themselves.

Mr. Riley, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Rittenberg have prepared measures on the primary, and the judiciary committee, to which they were referred, prepared a substitute for the bills of Messrs. Riley and Nicholson and reported the Rittenberg measure favorably with certain amendments. Mr. Stanley and Mr. Gasque, as a sub-committee from the committee on privileges and elections, introduced still another bill on the same subject.

"If today's session serves as any indication of the temper of the House some bill will be passed to change the primary laws, and the question is simply one of judgment on which of the proposed bills and amendments should be selected.

Only one speaker, Mr. Irby, of Laurens, took the position that the present laws were sufficiently strict and should not be revised, and Mr. C. C. Wyche, of Spartanburg, introduced a bill, Mr. Wyche giving it as his opinion that only slight revision was necessary.

"The bill introduced by the judiciary committee has been prepared with the co-operation of Governor Blease," said Mr. Stevenson, of Chesterfield, in defending the bill. Mr. Stevenson took up in detail the bills introduced by Messrs. Riley and Nicholson and pointed out what he thought were their principal weaknesses, and which, he said, did not appear in the committee bill.

"In the first place, the bill by Mr. Riley provides no salary for the county registrar, and places in the hands of a single man the power to decide whether or not a citizen of the State shall be entitled to vote," said Mr. Stevenson. "I am of the opinion that we could not get a capable man to take the office absolutely without pay, and further, that the board of commissioners should consist of more than one man."

Mr. Stevenson then explained the committee bill. Briefly, its provisions are:

### Provisions of Bill.

That all political parties in this State which poll as many as 20,000 votes for the head of their ticket shall be entitled to have registration for voters in their primary elections.

That on or before February 1 of each election year there shall be appointed a board of three men for each county, to be known as the board of primary registration. These are to be appointed by the governor on recommendation of the county delegations, and that they shall receive the same salaries as members of the county boards of registration.

That the books of registration shall be kept open from April 1 to August 1 of each election year in the Court House of each county and one day in each township, notice to be given by the supervisor in the papers of the date of opening the books in the township.

Requirements of one year's residence in the State and three months in the county for registration are provided in the bill. The voter must take the oath that he is qualified to vote, is not already registered and must give his age and place of residence. He shall then be registered and receive a certificate, stating his age and place of residence, name and number as a voter.

Right of appeal to the Circuit Judge is reserved to those who are refused registration.

On August 1 the books are placed in the hands of the clerk of Court, who shall give one book to each voting precinct and keep a duplicate in his office. No one who is not enrolled shall be entitled to vote. Poll lists and registration books shall be compared for the purpose of ascertaining duplication. Books are to be kept open to the public and any citizen has the right to challenge another's right to vote.

### Proposed Penalties.

False swearing is punishable under the bill with a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both.

"The bill provides what we have got to have in order to insure honest elections in South Carolina," said Mr. Stevenson, "and that is, an accurate record in the clerk of Court's office thirty days before the election, showing exactly who is entitled to vote in the election. The record is public and any citizen who is not satisfied

that another should have the right to vote in the election has the opportunity of giving his position to a committee qualified and empowered to investigate."

Referring to the last election, Mr. Stevenson said that it had been stated that in a certain town of Chesterfield County on election day, when the train stopped for an hour, every passenger got off and voted.

Mr. C. C. Wyche spoke in favor of his amendment, which provided a more lenient system of laws than the committee bill. Mr. Riley thought there should be only one registrar, as when there are three each will likely shirk his duty, he said. He was opposed to closing the registration books thirty days before the election.

### Irby Opposes Reform.

Mr. Irby, in a speech in which he denounced the newspapers, fought against any reformation of the present primary rules.

The amendment by Mr. Stanley and Mr. Gasque for the committee on privileges and elections provided presentation of the poll tax receipt for the previous year, though the lame and halt might be excused from payment upon sufficient excuse. The registration certificate must be stamped with the name of the voter, the date of registration and the voting precinct. Mr. Stanley spoke briefly for the amendment.

On motion of Mr. Brice further discussion was postponed until tonight. There was a decided change in the primary regulation situation at the night session, when the discussion was resumed. Before going to the Senate to ratify the first batch of new acts, Mr. Irby and Mr. Moore romped all over the proposition of changing the primary laws or accepting any bait.

At the night session Mr. Irby, speaking on the primary regulation, declared that the bill gave an opportunity for favoritism to election officers. He asked how the election officials could afford a more involved machinery when they failed to enforce the machinery as it now stood. The enemies of the governor were in control of the polls, he stated, and if there was corruption they were responsible. He compared the present movement with the political upheaval of the nineties.

Mr. Stevenson declared there was no comparison between the two movements and that this bill disfranchised nobody. He stated that he started the first primary system in 1888. He told Mr. Irby that his father, together with Senator Tillman, was responsible for the Constitutional Convention of 1895 that required an educational test and property qualification for voting.

Mr. Irby denied in strong language that his father signed the Constitution as framed at that Convention, and declared that he refused only because of these qualifications. He favored a wide-open election and said he believed in the work of all classes of white people in the State. He received applause and argued that the white people were now, and have always been, honest in their primaries. He was utterly opposed to restriction built up by the plutocracy.

### Governor Starts Cheering.

Governor Blease was on the floor and handed Mr. Irby a copy of the Constitution to show that his father—Senator Irby—had refused to sign the Constitution because it provided too severe restrictions on the poor man. This was Mr. Irby's view, which was applauded, Governor Blease starting the demonstration.

Mr. Moore, of Abbeville, said that if the last election was fraudulent the members of the present House held their offices by fraud. He stated the bill was an entering wedge for a return to the old convention system, which means boss rule and ring rule. This is the underlying reason behind the whole movement, he said. He declared that there was no necessity for the bill and that the majority of the people did not wish the change. Mr. Moore was utterly opposed to any change on the ground that it was useless.

Mr. Liles, of Orangeburg, spoke for the bill. He started out by saying that the governor of the state was responsible for the statement, in a speech from the State House steps, that there were 20,000 illegal votes cast in the election. Mr. Liles said he got this on good authority.

Before Mr. Liles was fairly started the House adjourned to accept an invitation from the Senate to meet in joint session for the purpose of ratifying Acts.

### How Is Your Boller?

It has been stated that a man's stomach is his boller, his body is his engine and his mouth the fire box. Is your boller (stomach) in good working order or is it so weak that it will not stand a full load and not able to supply the needed energy to your engine (body)? If you have any trouble with your stomach Chamberlain's Tablets will do you good. They strengthen and invigorate the stomach and enable it to do its work naturally. Many have been effected by them. For sale by all dealers.



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## COULD SCARCELY WALK ABOUT

And For Three Summers Mrs. Vincent Was Unable to Attend to Any of Her Housework.

Pleasant Hill, N. C.—"I suffered for three summers," writes Mrs. Walter Vincent, of this town, "and the third and last time, was my worst.

I had dreadful nervous headaches and prostration, and was scarcely able to walk about. Could not do any of my housework.

I also had dreadful pains in my back and sides and when one of those weak, sinking spells would come on me, I would have to give up and lie down, until it wore off.

I was certainly in a dreadful state of health, when I finally decided to try Cardui, the woman's tonic, and I firmly

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